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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/005,711	01/12/1998	ROBERT W. BROCIA		2817

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EXAMINER

GITOMER, RALPH J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1623	

DATE MAILED: 02/15/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/005,711	Applicant(s) Brocia
Examiner Ralph Gitomer	Art Unit 1623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 16, 2002.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 31-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 31-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 20) Other: _____

The amendment received 1/16/02 has been entered and claims 31-38 are currently pending in this application.

5 A new specification has been submitted which is greatly modified from the original specification. The new specification was not requested, therefor it is not entered. Applicant argues that the changes are editorial in nature and no new matter was added. As the substitute specification was not requested and in 10 view of the extensive modifications, it will not be entered.

In view of the all new claims with many new issues under 35 USC 112, a proper search of the claims as submitted is not possible at this time. No search has been performed.

15 The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple 20 assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

25 A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

30 Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 31-38 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 23-36 of U.S. Patent No. 5,770,355. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not 5 patentably distinct from each other because the claims of '355 are directed to a lipid transfer protein and the present claims are more broadly directed to a protein that transports.

Applicant's arguments filed 1/16/2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

10 Applicant argues that the claims are not identical.

It is the examiner's position that the present claims do not exclude step (b) of claim 23 in '355.

15 Claims 31-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

20 The application as originally filed does not enable the newly submitted claims which appear to be directed to an assay with some fluorescent component. It would appear there is a chemical reaction cascade involved in the invention, but none is shown. Note on page 9 last full paragraph, such a method is not understood in context. On page 10 second paragraph last line, it 25 is not seen CETP mass is measured. On page 11 last paragraph,

5 The normalization factor includes a colorizing factor that reacts in response to the normalizing factor of choice. The example on page 12 is insufficiently detailed to follow. No data of any sort nor results of any determination are found in the specification. As written, one of skill in this art could not perform the claimed invention by following the teachings of the specification.

10 Applicant's arguments filed 1/16/2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

 Applicant argues that there is some support found in the specification for examples of a donor substance, measuring CETP activity, a normalization factor and others.

15 It is the examiner's position that the claims are written in such vague and broad terms, the specification as originally filed in no way provides written description or enablement for what is claimed.

20 Claims 31-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Each of the following applies in all occurrences.

In claim 31, it is not seen how said quencher acts as a normalization factor if it quenches more in relation to the concentration of an acceptor where it is the transporter that is determined. In claim 33 it is not seen how a quencher can be an assay. Further, claim 33 contains improper Markush terminology.

5 In claim 35 line 8, what the protein may be is not seen and is confusing as to how it may differ from the analyte. In claim 36 ~~the donor particle~~ lacks antecedent basis. In claim 37 it is not seen how a quencher can be an assay and the claim contains

10 improper Markush terminology.

The title of the invention is not aptly descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

15

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in

20 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is

25 not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened

statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the 5 statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier 10 communications from the examiner should be directed to Ralph Gitomer whose telephone number is (703) 308-0732. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Mondays. If 15 attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Geist can be reached on (703) 308-1701. The fax phone number for this Art Unit is (703) 308-4556. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose 20 telephone number is (703) 308-1234. For 24 hour access to patent application information 7 days per week, or for filing applications electronically, please visit our website at

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